



BOOK CLUB KIT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Damani says, “When the stars aligned, driving for RideShare was like driving a confessional” (page 21). Discuss some of Damani’s most memorable passengers, such as Sonya (3.3 stars), the mother of three children; the woman she takes to the vet; Derek (3.4 stars), the drunk man who gives her 0 stars. What purpose do you think these confessionals serve in Damani’s story?
2. Damani says, “People did all sorts of things to feel alive” (page 26). What does Damani do to feel alive in the book? What about Jolene?
3. When Damani’s father passes away while he’s working a long shift, her mom becomes paralyzed with grief and unable to work. How does grief impact Damani’s life?
4. Damani and her friends find solace from the city at the Doo Wop, which acts as a community center, organizing space, and club. Talk about what makes the Doo Wop a special place for Damani and her friends. Have you ever been a part of a community that feels like this?
5. At the beginning of the story, Damani snaps at the community organizer at the Doo Wop, is annoyed with the protests, and doesn’t have the capacity to support her friend Shereef’s desire to organize the RideShare workers. Why do you think that is? How does the way she views the world change throughout the book?
6. Every morning Damani gives a ride to Mrs. P. Discuss the relationship between Mrs. P. and Damani. Why do you think the two women share such a strong connection?
7. Damani is exhausted from driving long hours just to keep her and her Amma on top of the rent. What little free time she does have she spends with her friends at the Doo Wop, watching meditation videos, and working out. Discuss how each of these activities speaks to Damani’s character. How does her relationship with her friends and health change when she meets Jolene?



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8. When the reader is first introduced to Jolene, we learn that she told Damani they could have it all. “She was a paper bag I could breathe into” (page 26). What do you think Damani means by this? Why do you think she identified Jolene as a special person?
9. “Sometimes you can see how badly some people need human interaction . . . Most people . . . are lonely” (page 29). Do you think Damani is lonely? What about other people in the book, such as Shereef, Stephanie, Toni, Amma, Mrs. P., and Jolene?
10. On one of their first meetings, Jolene playfully says to Damani, “You don’t think I’m on the good side?” (page 84). How does she convince Damani she is one of the “good guys”? How do you think the rest of the world sees Jolene? What about Damani?
11. When Damani attends Jolene’s fundraising event, she’s overwhelmed by the wealth, the number of causes, and the questions from attendees. She talks about knowing how to make herself smaller. In which other scenes in the book do you see Damani making herself smaller? Where do you think Damani allows herself to take up space?
12. Discuss the confrontation between Shereef and Jolene. How does Jolene weaponize her position of power against Damani’s friends and the Doo Wop? Why do you think she called the police on the Doo Wop?
13. Talk about Damani’s final drive in the book. What do you think propelled her to action? Talk about the reactions from her friends, Mrs. P., her Amma, and the world.
14. The author, Priya Guns, was inspired by the film *Taxi Driver*. Watch the film with your book group and discuss the similarities and differences between Damani and Travis Bickle. Do you see Damani as an antihero? Why or why not?



Follow the Author
on Instagram!
@Priya.Guns

**READY TO GET THE BLOOD PUMPING
WITH OUR FAVORITE BADDIE?**



Get sweaty with this mix:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5TBOCPhgwcKwUf9xzZi44I?si=e175a74490c64088>

WARM UP—LET'S GO!

Way of Life — Dead Prez

FIRST SETS IN, FORGET ABOUT THE WORLD

A Few Words for the Firing Squad
(Radiation) — Run the Jewels

Aiyo! — Shan Vincent de Paul
and Yung Raja

ADRENALINE PUMPING

Gasoline — Brass Against the Machine
featuring Amanda Brown

R.E.D. — The Halluci Nation featuring
Black Bear, Yasiin Bey, and Narcy

Fire, Fire — M.I.A.

5 Million Ways to Kill a C.E.O.
— The Coup

TIRED? LOOK AT THAT PUMP. WE GOT THIS!

Olé, Olé — John Guerrero

Sleep Now in the Fire — Rage Against
the Machine

Freedom — Brass Against the Machine
and Sophia Urista

ALMOST THERE! GOTTA GET BACK ON THE ROAD.

Terrorist — Renegade (PA Mix)

GO! — Santigold and Karen O

Speed Racer — Masked Wolf

COME DOWN TO THE GROUND, WE NAILED IT. BACK TO REALITY. FLEX A LITTLE.

Shadowboxin' — GZA and
Method Man

